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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

GHERARDI et al

Atty. Ref.: **1090-26**

Serial No. **09/423,516**

Group: **1647**

Filed: **February 10, 2000**

Examiner: **Hayes**

For: **HGF POLYPEPTIDES AND THEIR USE IN THERAPY**

* * * * *

December 12, 2001

14/c
M.G.J
12/18/01

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT

Responsive to the Official Action dated September 13, 2001, entry and consideration of the following amendments and remarks are requested; the period for response having been extended up to and including December 13, 2001, by submission of the requisite petition and fee, attached.

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows.

~~Cancel~~ claims 1-30, without prejudice.

Add the following claims.

~~C~~ 31. (new) A variant hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) which is substantially incapable of binding a heparan sulphate proteoglycan but which is capable of binding to the HGF receptor for use in medicine.

32. (new) A variant hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) according to Claim 31